UNITED NATIONS

TCDC

Technical co-operation among developing countries

Distr.
LIMITED

TCDC/7/3
23 April 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW
OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
Seventh session
New York, 28-31 May 1991

INFORMATION FROM SOME GOVERNMENTS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ON THEIR ACTIVITIES IN TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Report of the Administrator

SUMMARY

The present document has been prepared in line with decision 6/2 of the High-level Committee regarding information on progress achieved in TCDC activities of Governments and intergovernmental organizations. The report is based on the submissions received from Governments and intergovernmental organizations with regard to TCDC policy and related matters, promotional and operational TCDC activities in addition to financial arrangements. The report summarizes noticeable trends in the period under review and ends with the Administrator's conclusions and recommendations.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The review of TCDC activities of Governments and intergovernmental organizations has become a regular feature of the High-level Committee since its second session in October 1981. In its decision 6/2, the Committee voiced concern over the paucity of detailed information available from many Governments of developing countries and from international organizations concerning their activities in the area of TCDC. UNDP requested the Governments of 178 member countries and territories, including 23 developed countries in addition to 80 intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) to provide the required information through a questionnaire. By 31 March 1991, responses were received from Governments of 42 countries and territories, including 39 from developing countries and 3 from developed countries. Twenty responses were received from IGOs. Out of the 39 responding developing countries, 8 have indicated that no TCDC activities were undertaken during the period under review.

2. Not all responses conformed to the suggested format, and some were received incomplete. Therefore the overall assessment of responses does not attempt to portray a comprehensive record of the progress made by Governments and IGOs in the promotion and implementation of TCDC. However, some general patterns and trends could be noted, with examples of specific activities indicating progress made thus far.

3. This report provides an overview of the various activities undertaken by Governments and IGOs in strengthening their TCDC focal point mechanisms and capacities, also their promotional and operational activities, and financial arrangements. It then summarizes noticeable trends, and ends with the Administrator's conclusions and recommendations for future action.

I. OVERVIEW

4. For the period under review 1988-1990, the Governments of developing countries were requested to provide information concerning changes in TCDC policies and mechanisms covering focal point mechanisms and budgetary allocations for TCDC on bilateral and multilateral arrangements made on a TCDC basis. The Governments were also requested to report on promotional and operational activities undertaken. Governments of developed countries were mainly asked to report on changes in policies and financial support for TCDC. The questions posed to intergovernmental organizations were aimed at obtaining information on changes in legislation and policy levels of financial support for TCDC activities of developing countries.

A. Developing countries

1. TCDC mechanisms and capacities

5. During the period 1988-1990, most countries reported maintaining their focal points as part of their overall planning machinery. This was cited, for example, by Bangladesh, Cyprus, Pakistan, Panama, Togo and Uganda. However, the United Republic of Tanzania reported changing its national coordinating mechanism in March 1990 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Planning Commission in the office of the Prime Minister with the Planning Divisions of the sectoral ministries and departments remaining as sectoral focal points. Thailand reported maintaining its focal point within the office of the Prime Minister. The Governments of Colombia, Ethiopia and Mexico reported having their focal points within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Chile reported the establishment of the agency for international cooperation as the TCDC focal point in March 1990.

6. Addressing national and sectoral budget allocations for TCDC over the reporting period, Governments varied in their approaches, some indicating annual amounts contributed from the national budget, with others listing allocations for specific projects. Thailand indicated the allocation of 26,075,900 baht ($1,043,036) from the national budget to its Thai International Cooperation Programme over the period 1 October 1988 to 30 September 1989. This sum was reported to have been increased to 28,321,332 baht ($1,132,853) for the October 1989-September 1990 period. The United Republic of Tanzania's annual budget for TCDC is reported to have been increased from 4.5 million Tanzanian shillings in 1989-1990 to 5.6 million Tanzanian shillings for 1990-1991. Uganda reported an annual TCDC budget allocation of $US 456,000. Venezuela registered an increase in its TCDC financing from 598,150 bolivares in 1989 to 846,000 bolivares in 1990. Jamaica reported an allocation of 100,000 Jamaican dollars from its fourth cycle IPF for support of TCDC activities; and an additional allocation of 152,000 Jamaican dollars over the period 1988-1991 for technical assistance to other countries. Turkey reported a total allocation of approximately $7.6 million for TCDC activities and programmes. Both Bolivia and Honduras reported that while no allocations are made from their national budgets for TCDC activities, local cost components of such activities are made from individual budgets of cooperating institutions. Yugoslavia reported that TCDC activities undertaken during the reporting period were primarily financed from the national budget. Such financing was reported to have reached the level of $10 million for the period 1988-1990.

7. Most countries indicated having bilateral and multilateral TCDC agreements with other countries. New bilateral agreements during the reporting period were made by the Government of Thailand with the Governments of India, Iran, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal and Turkey; by the Governments of India and Pakistan; and by the Government of Venezuela with the Governments of Argentina, Chile and Czechoslovakia. Mexico reported bilateral agreements with Governments in Central America (Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua), Afghanistan also indicated agreements with Governments in its own region (Bangladesh, India, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Turkey) and Uganda cited regional

agreements with the Governments of Brazil, China, Egypt and Yugoslavia. The Government of Paraguay reported entering into agreements with the Governments of Brazil, Uruguay and Venezuela. Sri Lanka reported bilateral agreements with China involving training in the fields of agriculture and farming mechanization, quality control and standardization in rubber goods production and the exchange of technology in the manufacturing of tea. Turkey reported specific bilateral TCDC agreements with Botswana, Chad, the Gambia and the Sudan in addition to general bilateral agreements with 16 developing countries from Africa, Asia, Arab and Eastern European States embodying TCDC elements. Zambia reported bilateral agreements with Iran, Korea and Spain. Chile reported TCDC agreements with Brazil, Mexico and Venezuela in addition to a continuation of previous cooperation with China. Bolivia reported a cooperation agreement with Ecuador, and Honduras reported a cooperation agreement with Brazil, Mexico and Venezuela. Yugoslavia reported concluding bilateral agreements with a number of developing countries. Chad reported cooperation agreements with Iraq, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Turkey.

2. Promotional activities

8. Most Governments reported carrying out promotional TCDC activities at all levels, bilateral, regional and global, principally of the following types:

(a) Identification of TCDC capacities and needs by a country and, in turn, disseminating the information to potential partner countries;

(b) Missions, studies and surveys carried out to identify TCDC possibilities and/or the preparation of specific projects;

(c) Participation in regional or interregional meetings and consultations organized to promote TCDC.

9. Country reports indicated that during the current reporting period capacities and needs surveys were carried out by the United Republic of Tanzania, Thailand, Panama, Paraguay and Venezuela. Some countries reported completing and disseminating such surveys to other interested Governments during the previous reporting period. Thailand has advised of updating its capacities and needs compendium for the period 1991-1993. Sri Lanka reported identification of training needs of government departments on an annual basis. Training needs/capacities in the coconut sector were surveyed in preparation for the Asia and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC) TCDC programming exercise in Indonesia. Jamaica reported conducting a survey of capacities/needs in preparation for its national TCDC modality workshop. Turkey reported conducting a survey of identifying Turkish technical cooperation capacities in preparation for the first ministerial meeting on technical cooperation among the member countries of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). Zambia reported completing a survey of capacities and needs for possible dissemination to other interested partners. Bolivia and Ecuador have reported undertaking a joint survey of capacities and needs in a number of sectors including mining, industry, health and agriculture.

10. The Governments of Afghanistan, Mexico, Mongolia, Pakistan, Paraguay and Venezuela have all reported undertaking mission studies to identify specific TCDC prospects preliminary to establishing links with other developing countries as preparation for TCDC programming exercises. Ecuador reported missions to Venezuela, Cuba and Mexico aiming at identification of potential areas of cooperation. Chad reported undertaking capacities identification in preparation for the first ministerial meeting on technical cooperation among OIC member States.

11. Participation in regional or interregional meetings and consultations organized to promote TCDC was reported on by most countries. These were either regular meetings of regional organizations of which the countries are members, or intergovernmental TCDC programming exercises. Uganda reported that its participation in the United Republic of Tanzania and Ghana TCDC programming exercises resulted in approximately 20 TCDC project agreements being negotiated and finalized with 6 countries (Brazil, China, Egypt, Ghana, the United Republic of Tanzania and Yugoslavia). The United Republic of Tanzania reported that during the TCDC programming exercise hosted by it in 1989, TCDC project proposals totalling 221 were agreed upon by Tanzanian institutions and corresponding institutions of 18 participating developing countries. The United Republic of Tanzania also reported that 13 project proposals had been finalized with the Government of Indonesia and 5 were agreed to with the Government of Ghana during programming exercises in those countries. Sierra Leone reported agreement on four projects during the Ghana TCDC programming exercise involving training of government officials in Ghana. The Government of Venezuela reported participating in many meetings within the Latin American region in 1988 and 1989. Jamaica reported participation in TCDC programming in aquaculture and maritime activities and also in China's programming exercise in 1986. The Government of Turkey reported participation in the United Republic of Tanzania and Indonesia TCDC programming exercises. In addition, Turkey also reported on hosting the first meeting of focal points of technical cooperation among OIC member States and the first ministerial meeting on technical cooperation among OIC member countries. The Government of Zambia reported participation in TCDC workshops in Malawi and the TCDC programming of the United Republic of Tanzania.

3. Operational activities

12. Operational TCDC activities have been divided into three categories:

(a) Experts received from, and training obtained in, other developing countries;

(b) Equipment received; and

(c) Joint research and development projects.

13. The statistical data provided indicate that more than 700 experts were exchanged over more than 65 TCDC activities between cooperating countries. Experts were received by the Government of Afghanistan from India, by the Government of Uganda from Egypt, by the Government of Mexico from some Central American countries and by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania from Turkey and Ghana. Experts were sent by the Government of Tunisia to Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Oman, Thailand, Turkey and Yemen, and by the Government of Thailand to over 45 countries in Asia, the Arab States, Africa and Latin America. Turkey reported sending 29 Turkish experts to 11 developing countries in Asia and Africa in a number of fields including post-harvest technology, statistics and manpower development. Turkey also reported receiving three Chinese experts in acupuncture. The Government of Mauritius reported receiving 92 experts from China, Egypt and India. Bolivia reported receiving experts from Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela and sending one expert to Paraguay.

14. Over the reporting period, the statistical data provided by the Governments indicate that more than 230 training activities were undertaken. Training was provided to Viet Nam by the Governments of Indonesia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, to Afghanistan by the Government of India, to various developing countries by the Government of Cyprus, to Ethiopia by the Governments of Egypt, Indonesia and Yemen, and by the Government of Tunisia to officials from Mauritania and Mali. Training was also provided to Nepal and Yemen by the Government of Pakistan, and to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania by China, Ghana, Indonesia, Thailand and Turkey. Turkey reported providing training to 37 persons from 29 developing countries in different fields including textile and leather technologies, water resources and highway engineering. Turkey also fielded trainees to Indonesia, Egypt and Malaysia. Zambia reported sending trainers to Cuba, Egypt, and Malawi in irrigation and economics. Bolivia reported sending 10 trainees to Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador and Venezuela.

15. Afghanistan reported having received teaching materials, hospital equipment and spare parts from India. Yugoslavia reported providing equipment totalling $US 7.7 million to seven African developing countries.

16. TCDC Joint Development Undertakings were reported on by nine Governments. Such undertakings ranged from microhydro-power generation, small industries and public health, to research and development of coffee and tea production. The focus of these activities was on human resources development through the provision of experts and training by one country to another. Zambia reported a joint research programme with Cuba on utilization of sugar bagasse.

B. Developed countries

17. The Government of Germany accords a high priority to TCDC within the framework of its development assistance programmes on both a bilateral and multilateral basis. Germany reported the provision of about

110 million deutsche mark for projects involving TCDC for the period 1988-1990. This reflects an increase of 150 per cent compared to the preceding reporting period 1986-1988. The Government of Finland indicated that its development assistance programmes embody and encourage TCDC specially in projects involving training. Stating its firm belief that TCDC should be promoted and supported, the Government of Austria reported that it regards the essential impulse for TCDC as necessarily originating in the developing countries themselves. Austria stated its participation in regional infrastructural programmes indicating increasing interest in supporting these activities.

C. Intergovernmental organizations

18. The responding intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) belonged to the following broad categories:

(a) Funding organizations including regional development banks and regional funds;

(b) Research and training organizations;

(c) Broader intergovernmental groupings with technical, economic and political objectives.

1. Policy and administrative measures

19. All IGOs listed the promotion of TCDC concepts as the impetus for their existence and ongoing concerns. Of the funding organizations, the Arab Monetary Fund reported supporting 57 TCDC activities during the reporting period. The technical assistance rendered to member States included the exchange of experts on all aspects of capital market development, inter-Arab trade promotion, and training in central banking, public finance and macroeconomic management.

20. The African Development Bank initiated a group of concrete actions to promote TCDC concepts among African countries including provision of loans to subregional institutions to finance common investment programmes, and developing projects situated in one country using the outputs of goods and services from other developing countries. The Asian Development Bank facilitated the exchange of experts under its technical assistance and loan-financed projects, in addition to facilitating provision of equipment/supplies among developing member countries under bank-financed operations. The Islamic Development Bank indicated that its Unit responsible for technical cooperation among the Bank's member countries participated in the TCDC exercises in Egypt, Indonesia and Pakistan.

21. The Statistical Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries organized the first meeting of national Training Centre focal points of States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in March 1990 as a preparatory meeting for the first ministerial meeting on the subject, held in October 1990. The Centre also reported on an ongoing survey for identification of capacities and needs of OIC member States. The Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development supported the Islamic Academy of Sciences by co-sponsoring annual conferences in 1989 and 1990 on technology and development. The organization also participated at meetings on technical cooperation and conducted conferences, workshops, training and exchange of experts in favour of Malaysia, Pakistan, Senegal and the United Arab Emirates. The International Center for Public Enterprises in Developing Countries (ICPE) reported putting together a feasibility report on development of cooperative arrangements among developing countries in the consultancy and engineering field. ICPE also reported the institution of a one-year post-graduate Master of Business Administration programme in public enterprise management. The South Centre reported creating a two-year follow-up mechanism to promote and implement the findings and recommendations of the South Commission report on the importance of South-South cooperation. The Organización Latinoamericana de Energía (OLADE) conducted 42 activities in 25 countries concerning technical cooperation among Latin American and Caribbean countries in the energy sector. The Forum Secretariat reported pooling resources among its member Governments in the area of trade, energy, telecommunication, maritime activities and civil aviation.

22. Broader intergovernmental groupings reporting on their activities included the Commission of the European Communities, which reported providing TCDC experts to countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific which are signatories of the Lomé III Convention for the years 1988-1990. The Arab Organization for Agricultural Development reported implementing three projects during the reporting period, financed by UNDP through training and the sharing of experience in the participating countries, and the strengthening of agriculture research management in the Arab countries. The Latin American Economic System (SELA) reported organizing a TCDC programming meeting on aquaculture in June 1989 with UNDP assistance. The organization also indicated support for a research project on artificial insemination and embryo transfers in cattle involving 13 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

2. Financial support to multilateral organizations

23. Intergovernmental organizations were asked to indicate financial support to any interregional groupings supporting TCDC. In this regard, the Arab Monetary Fund reported contributing $250 million to the Arab Trade Funding Program. The Forum Secretariat also reported the institution of a fellowship programme in conjunction with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) aimed at providing short-term training in ASEAN countries to nationals of forum island countries with an annual budget of $27,000. The Arab Gulf Programme for the United Nations Organizations (AGFUND) reported provision of financial assistance during the period 1988-1990 to a number of United Nations

development system agencies and organizations in addition to an inter-Arab organization (the Arab Council for Childhood and Development).

3. Support of specific TCDC promotional activities

24. On the question of support of specific TCDC promotional and operational activities, the Asian Development Bank reported providing expert/consultancy services through both its technical assistance and loan operations in favour of developing member countries from other member developing countries totalling $57,590,000. Procurement of goods, equipment and related services supplied by member developing countries to other member countries totalled $US 3,159,839 during the same period. The Islamic Development Bank also reported support for 22 activities facilitating exchange of experts and placement of trainees among its member countries totalling $156,000. AGFUND indicated support to institution building, networking, and information exchange in 21 Arab countries, 3 African countries, 2 Latin American countries and 7 Asian countries. The Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD) reported supporting sectoral TCDC focal points in the fields of water resources, social sciences and rangeland management. ACSAD also organized 21 training courses and workshops in its field of operation and supported the exchange of information and research. The Commonwealth Secretariat reported that more than half of the experts sent within the framework of the activities of the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation were from developing countries.

II. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

25. The information available reflects the continued efforts of many developing countries and intergovernmental organizations in undertaking and supporting TCDC. Developing countries that have provided information give the indication that the use of TCDC as an instrument in meeting their technical cooperation needs is on the increase, taking the form of bilateral agreements and joint development undertakings. It is felt that through strengthening such arrangements, TCDC will become an integral part of the process of socio-economic development.

26. The level of information received, as reflected in the quantity and quality of responses, continues to be a cause for concern over the capacity of Governments and intergovernmental organizations to gather and report information on their TCDC activities. In this respect, governments and intergovernmental organizations are urged to seriously consider developing and enhancing their capacities to collect and disseminate information on their TCDC activities in order to enhance the level of appreciation of TCDC as a development tool.

27. There are indications of continuing efforts to strengthen national TCDC coordination mechanisms in several developing countries; also of some efforts to review the most appropriate location for the national focal point within

the government machinery to ensure optimum effectiveness. Governments of developing countries which may deem it desirable to review the effectiveness of their TCDC focal point mechanism may wish to seek the experiences of other developing countries, if required, with catalytic support from the Special Unit for TCDC.

28. Allocation of financial resources for TCDC including the use of IPFs still appears to require more efforts on the part of developing countries. Developing countries are therefore urged to respond to previous decisions of the High-level Committee addressing the question of financial allocations for TCDC.

29. The level of participation of women in various TCDC activities as reflected in the statistical data provided by some developing countries reflects a trend in those countries to involve women in such activities. Another report before the Committee deals extensively with this subject. 1/

Notes

1/ TCDC/7/5.

Annex I

LIST OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THAT PROVIDED INFORMATION

A. Developing countries and territories

AFRICA	ASIA AND THE PACIFIC	LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	ARAB STATES AND EUROPE
Chad	Afghanistan	Bolivia	Bahrain
Ethiopia	Bangladesh	Chile	Cyprus
Gabon	Indonesia	Colombia	Lebanon
Mauritius	Kiribati	Ecuador	Oman
Sao Tome and Principe	Mongolia	Honduras	Tunisia
Senegal	Nepal	Jamaica	Turkey
Sierra Leone	Pakistan	Mexico	United Arab Emirates
Swaziland	Sri Lanka	Panama	Yugoslavia
United Republic of Tanzania	Thailand	Paraguay	
Togo		Uruguay	
Uganda		Venezuela	
Zaire			
Zambia			

B. Developed countries

Austria
Finland
Germany

Annex II

LIST OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDED INFORMATION

African Development Bank

Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands

Arab Gulf Programme for the United Nations Organizations

Arab Monetary Fund

Arab Organization for Agricultural Development

Asian Development Bank

Commission of the European Communities

Commonwealth Secretariat

Forum Secretariat

Instituto Centroamericano de Administración Pública

Inter-American Development Bank

Interim Committee for Coordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin

International Center for Public Enterprises in Developing Countries

Islamic Development Bank

Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development

Latin American Economic System

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

Organización Latinoamericana de Energía

Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel

South Centre

Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Secretariat

Statistical Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries

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